‘UPGRADING THE UTOPIA’
Upgrading modernist planning utopia by introducing mixture and flexibility of urban fabric within the scope of community-led design, in the context of mass-produced housing suburbia.
CONTENT:

- INTRODUCTION: problem definition
- WHY? research: failure of the state
- STRATEGY: involving current and considering future residents
- PROJECT SITE AND CONTEXT
- DESIGN PROPOSAL
1. INTRODUCTION

problem definition
Segregation is increasing in Stockholm

Increased segregation in Stockholm’s suburbs

In suburbs with many inhabitants from minority groups the proportion of people with a foreign background increases sharply. This shows a new report from Statistics Sweden who in a detailed study has crunched the numbers down to the level of city districts.

Segregation cited as root of riots in immigrant areas of Stockholm

Expert and locals blame Swedish unrest on poor education and lack of jobs for immigrant youth
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA.
II. WHY?

research - failure of the state
IMMIGRATION and population growth

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. research - identifying the failure

TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH 1940-1975

-32%

IMMIGRATION GROWTH

REFUGEES WW II FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. 1940’s

LABOR FORCE EUROPE. 1950’s and 60’s

REFUGEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. 1970’s - 80’s

ASYLUM SEEKERS EASTERN EUROPE. 1990’s

ASYLUM SEEKERS MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND AFRICA. FROM 2003 - now

immigration growth
IMMIGRATION VS. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

REFUGEES WW II
FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. 1940’s

LABOR FORCE
EUROPE.
1950’s and 60’s

REFUGEES
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
1970’s - 80’s

ASYLUM SEEKERS
EASTERN EUROPE.
1990’s

ASYLUM SEEKERS
MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND AFRICA. FROM 2003 - now

RECORD YEARS -
‘MILLION PROGRAMME’

housing
development

+30%
OF TOTAL HOUSING STOCK IN SWEDEN
1965 - 1974

housing growth

immigration growth

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE
‘MILLION PROGRAMME’ - MASS-PRODUCED HOUSING ‘FOR ALL’
MODERNIST UTOPIA - INSPIRATION FOR 'MILLION PROGRAMME' DEVELOPMENT

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH - IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE

we need:
- wide streets
- big parking plots
- large regular plots
- freedom for new designs
- freedom for expropriation
MASS-PRODUCED HOUSING 'FOR ALL'

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE
‘MILLION PROGRAMME’ AIMS

Affordable and diverse housing
Spacious green outdoor environments
Cycling oriented
Public transport oriented
Ideal for social contacts
Free from cars

Figur 6.2 Separeringsprincipen (Gunnarsson och Lindström, 1970, s. 63).

Figur 6.3 Differentieringsprincipen (Gunnarsson och Lindström, 1970, s. 65).
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE

DECLINE IN NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

REFUGEES WW II FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. 1940’s
LABOR FORCE EUROPE. 1950’s and 60’s
REFUGEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. 1970’s - 80’s
ASYLUM SEEKERS EASTERN EUROPE. 1990’s
ASYLUM SEEKERS MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND AFRICA. FROM 2003 - now

- housing growth
- immigration growth

RECORD YEARS - ‘MILLION PROGRAMME’
housing development

1950’s and 60’s
1970’s - 80’s
1990’s
2003 - now

1940’s
1970’s - 80’s
1990’s
2003 - now
Affordable and diverse housing
Spacious green outdoor environments
Cycling oriented
Public transport oriented
Ideal for social contacts
Free from cars

REALITY VS. ‘UTOPIA’

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE
CRITICISED FEATURES OF MODERNIST CITY STRUCTURE

- Monocentric district model
- Separated functions - work/play and live
- Separated transport flows
- Mototype housing typology and block structure
- Public space type and accessibility
PEOPLE OF HIGHER INCOME ARE MOVING TO THE CENTER
FASTEST GROWING INCOME GAP AND INEQUALITY, CAUSING SOCIAL UNREST
Vision 2040
Ett Stockholm för alla

‘VISION 2040 - Stockholm for all’:

- integration
- education
- more jobs and enterprise
- improved urban environment
JÄRVA 2030
A FUTURE VISION BECOMES REALITY

- Good housing and a more varied urban environment
- Improved education and language teaching
- More jobs and enterprise
- Everyday safety and security

JÄRVA REGION
The IT center is only growing

With over 1000 IT companies opening Kista many opportunities for those who work there. The closeness between the competitors has become a payroll driving factor, but also the employers have much to gain.

Kista Science City

They call it Wireless Valley, Mobile Valley or the Silicon Valley of the Nordics. Its formal name is Kista Science City, located in north-west Stockholm. It’s a unique space where many of the world’s foremost ICT companies, gathered together to take advantage of Sweden’s strong position in mobile communications. Kista Science City is one of the world’s leading high-tech clusters.
CONCLUSION 3: NO RELATION BETWEEN PROPOSED PLANS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS
CONCLUSION 1 - MAIN FOCUS ON ALREADY HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREA AND POTENTIAL USERS. DUE TO FINANCIAL BENEFITS
CONCLUSION 2: REBUILDING THE SAME STRUCTURE AS IN 70'S, JUST WITH A NEW MATERIALS
CONCLUSION 4: DISPLACEMENT OF CURRENT RESIDENTS DUE TO HIGHER RENT PRICES
The quality of such district can not be changed just by rebuilding its housing with new materials. Its spatial planning principles have to be restructured in a different way, in order to improve living conditions, create attractive and qualitative environment for local residents. These changes won't happen without changing the planning process itself.
Stockholm has become one of the highest segregated cities within the European context, due to “Million Programme” suburban mass-production housing districts, proposed by the national government in the late 60’s, that currently are being seen as socially and spatially deprived areas, accommodating people mostly of immigrant background, and facing such issues as crime and poor quality of urban environment, all together forming a negative identity of ‘concrete ethnic enclaves’. Such urban fabric, inspired by utopia of modernist planning, is incapable of accommodating diversity of people, because it is not able to provide variety of needs, which is contributing to such districts becoming segregated within the city scale context.

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**Research Question:**

How to increase value of modernist districts, reduce segregation and integrate people into design process, through change of the urban fabric and its management?
III. STRATEGY
involving current and considering future residents
PROJECT AIM

To create spatial conditions, that could enable local population to be directly involved into design process – planning, constructing and managing - in order to transform existing static and monotonous urban fabric into dynamic and responsive environment, able to accommodate social mixture, using a guided strategy and tools of urban design.
need to shift from top-down linear planning process to collaboration and encouraged community participation:

“Change life! Change Society! These ideas lose completely their meaning without producing an appropriate space. New social relations demand a new space, and vice-versa.” [Lefebvre, H.]

“Creating inclusive urban environment and spaces that welcome diversity and meet the contrasting needs of different social groups is central to the goal of building ‘A city for All’ [Beall, J.]

“Cities have the capacity of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when they are created by everybody” [Jacobs, J.]

“We can reinvent entire regions starting from the heart of local communities and building outwards” [Myrick, Ph.]

“People themselves must have responsibility for the development and change of the world they live in” [Sen, A.]

planning for social diversity: flexibility of space

“Women and men, the elderly, children, teenagers, disabled people, racial, ethnic or religious minorities, refugees and newcomers, migrant workers, the wealthy, people in poverty – all have contrasting needs and contributions to make and they experience and engage with the physical environment in different ways. The ways in which they participate in the social, economic and political life of the city will be diverse, and structures and patterns of urban governance need to accommodate this” [Beall, J.]

“Flexibility of space and community participation are on the contrary tools for creating a place that is able to accommodate diversity of people as well as their needs. It contributes to shifting from the producer/consumer dichotomy to the new model of ‘prosumer’, which enable each and everyone to be creators of their own environment and contribute to the processes that build local identity.”

design ideas on flexibility/temporarity/re-use/mixed-use for restructuring modernist district:

“Flexible architecture consists spaces that are designed to respond easily to change throughout its lifetime. The benefits of this form of design can be considerable: it remains in use longer, fits its purpose better, accommodates users’ experience and intervention; takes advantage of technical innovation more readily; and is economicaaly and ecologically more viable. It also has greater potential to remain relevant to culture and social trends” [Kronenburg, R.]

“Temporary uses are seen as tools of empowerment: revealing the possibilities of space” [Temel, R.]

“A design is not seen as the beginning of a linear process but as a phase in a continuous cycle of creation and recreation, use and re-use” [2012 Architecten Mission Statement]

“Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings.” [ Jacobs, J.]

“Intricate minglings of different uses in cities are not a form of chaos. On the contrary, they represent a complex and highly developed form of order.” [Jacobs, J.]
PROJECT AIM: To create spatial conditions, that could enable local population to be directly involved into design process – planning, constructing and managing - in order to transform existing static and monotonous urban fabric into dynamic and responsive environment, able to accommodate social mixture, using a guided strategy and power of urban form.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Consider planning as a collaborative process

Planning as a changing cycle - flexible design proposal

Engage civic participation and provoke community-led design

Use the existing - improve it, upgrade it!

Introduce flexible mixed-use spaces - for diverse urban quality, to encourage social mixture
PLANNING METHOD - GUIDEPLAN

fixed outlines - district level
flexible infill - neighbourhood level
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. STRATEGY

IN Volvement

FLEXIBLE INFILL

neighborhood level

block level

private space

design

implementation

management
CONCEPT AND MAIN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Restructuring urban models of modernist suburbia by enhancing flexibility of urban fabric within the scope of community-led design, in order to create conditions for social and spatial mixture.

**SPATIAL MODELS TO BE RESTRUCTURED**

- Monocentric district model
- Separated functions - work/play and live
- Separated transport flows
- Mototype housing typology and block structure
- Public space type and accessibility
- Policentric urban model
- Mixed-use urban centres
- Mixed transport flows
- Customized and flexible housing
- Diverse and flexible public space
DESIGN APPROACH

GUIDEPLAN STRUCTURE

SET OUTLINES/FIXED FRAME
URBAN MODEL & STREET NETWORK

1) Policentric urban model [introducing neighbourhood centers]
2) Mixed-flows street network [restructuring separated transport flows]

FLEXIBLE INFILL/TOOLBOX
BUILD UP AREA AND PUBLIC SPACES

1) flexible public space [empowering community]
2) customized housing [accommodating diversity]
3) programming mixed-use urban centres [activating district]
IV. PROJECT SITE AND CONTEXT

evaluating spatial aspects of modern planning:
INITIAL SCENERY FOR RIOTS 2013

85.4% RESIDENTS OF IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND

‘MILLION PROGRAMME’ EXAMPLE
Currently the district of Husby represents monocentric urban model, which means that most of the functions are concentrated in one central area, leaving the rest of the neighbourhoods with no activity and livability.

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

MAIN ENTRANCE

[Images of the main entrance area, showing a street view and a closer view of the entrance.]
SEPARATED TRANSPORT FLOWS

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT
SEPARATED TRANSPORT FLOWS

main street - bus stop

neighborhood - pedestrian path

centre - pedestrian path
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RESEARCH - SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

TYPE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SPACE
connecting routes
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUND FLOORS

RESEARCH – SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. RESEARCH – SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

SINGLE HOUSES 0
SEMI-DETACHED 0
MULTI-FAMILY BLOCK APARTMENTS 4896

HOUSING BLOCK AND ITS STRUCTURE
V. DESIGN PROPOSAL
upgrading the modern utopia
Monocentric urban model, concentrating most of the functions in one central area, leaving the rest of the district with no activity, un lively environment and lack of facilities.

Introducing secondary/neighbourhood centers to activate the whole district, create more dynamic environment and diversify spatial quality, provide activities not only in the central commercial area of Husby, but as well within each of the neighbourhoods, with more community oriented facilities.
CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING SECONDARY CENTER

- Central Location
- Existing Activities
- Undefined Space for Potential New Activity
- Poor Quality/Vacant Buildings
- Car Accessibility
- Green Space
EXAMPLE: NEIGHBORHOOD 1
Criteria applied for each neighbourhood.
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL

DISTRICT CENTER:
main activity node
Current structure of the street network is clearly divided into two types of transport flows - cars and pedestrians. Such spatial model decreases accessibility within the district, deactivates streets, which makes it less visible and safe.
The proposed fixed urban structure of centers and connecting network of diverse street types enables district to become more dynamic, accessible and safer environment. Proposed neighborhood centers activate Husby from within local communities, which creates new dynamics of the area, transforming it from ‘bedroom’ neighborhood, to a diverse and lively urban environment. Solutions for new street typologies are proposed according to the new dynamics, it differs in various contexts, such as: slow/fast connections, center/housing neighborhood character and commuting/leisure functions.
PROGRAMMING THE CENTRE!
ACTIVATING DISTRICTS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

strategy & toolbox
[mixed-use/flexible/diverse]
IMPLEMENTATION and MANAGEMENT - COLLABORATIVE ACT:
- crowd-funding
- D.I.Y. solutions,
  use of man power
- NGO funds
- municipal funds

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

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100% COMMunal SPACE

ALTernative education

COMMUNITY AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT CENTER:
main activity node
### COMMON SPACE: SUGGESTED PROGRAMME

**TYPE OF EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Training</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Workshops, knowledge sharing on teaching skills and how to start local business</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design &amp; Construction Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Building public space as a common act to increase sense of belonging</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Learn how to D.I.Y.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Saving and Environmental Benefits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Resource sharing/swapping</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Recycling</td>
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<tr>
<th>Healthy Lifestyle</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Growing your own food</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Collective workouts</td>
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**REQUIRED FACILITIES**

- Community center
- Temporary structures
- Easy to assemble, prefabricated modules for urban furniture
- Open and second-hand market, recycling facilities
- Urban garden
- Parks and space for outdoor activities
COMMUNITY AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**
- Idea generation and discussion
- Community engagement and participation

**COMMUNITY EVENTS [Celebrations, Sport Events, Open Dinners, etc]**
- Relation between community members
- Active community

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ART**
- Improving environment
- Learning artistic skills

**COMMON SPACE: SUGGESTED PROGRAMME**

**TYPE OF ACTIVITY:**

**REQUIRED FACILITIES**

- Community center
- Event space
- Temporary structures
- Open-gallery
- Empty floor/facade for painting

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
TOOLBOX FOR ACTIVATING DISTRICT/NEIGHBORHOOD CENTRE

GROUND FLOOR PROGRAMME & ACCESS

PERSONALISATION
MANAGING THE PUBLIC SPACE!
TYPES, HIERARCHY AND CONNECTIONS

strategy & toolbox
[flexible/active/diverse/enabling common act]
PUBLIC SPACE TOOLBOX

ACCESS

FLEXIBILITY

FACILITIES
RECLAIMING UNDEFINED SPACE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL ACT

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UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. urban design proposal

designed by common act
primary/secondary/common/street as an active corridor. What happens in which, explain the difference
DIVERSIFYING MASS-PRODUCED HOUSING!
ENABLING CUSTOMIZATION

strategy & toolbox
[flexible/diverse/accommodating social diversity]
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BUILDINGS TO BE TRANSFORMED/RENOVATED

- existing housing to be renovated
- parking to be transformed into new typologies
- poor quality buildings to be transformed into mixed-use
  + new housing typologies
CHANGE OF THE HOUSING BLOCK STRUCTURE
CUSTOMIZED RENOVATION

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
PARKING TO NEW HOUSING TYPES, WITH INTEGRATED PARKING

- EXTENSIVE HOUSING
- SHARED HOUSING
- FLEXIBLE AREA HOUSING

Flexible options for housing, in order to provide conditions for accommodating people with different needs and capabilities.
SUGGESTED HOUSING TYPLOGIES

MODULAR SEMI-DETACHED HOUSING

OPTIONS:
- TYPE OF MODULE
- MATERIAL [EXTERIOR]
- INTERIOR CONFIGURATION
- SIZE OF SPACE
- POSSIBILITY FOR EXTENSION

EXTENSIVE SEMI-DETACHED HOUSING

OPTIONS:
- MATERIAL [EXTERIOR]
- INTERIOR CONFIGURATION
- POSSIBILITY FOR EXTENSION

SHARED MODULAR HOUSING

OPTIONS:
- SIZE OF SPACE
- POSSIBILITY FOR EXTENSION
CONCLUSIONS: HOUSING DIVERSITY

PRICE RANGE
- affordable
- luxurious

DESIGN
- mass-produced
- total customization

FACILITIES
- basic
- extended: - private - shared
- possibility to create

- enabled possibility to choose
PROGRAMMING AND PERSONALIZATION

ACTIVATING THE CENTER

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
IMPROVING PUBLIC SPACE

FLEXIBILITY

FACILITIES

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
DIVERSIFYING HOUSING TYPOLOGY

NEW HOUSING TYPES

UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL
UPGRADING THE UTOPIA. URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL

IMPRESSION
WHO BENEFITS OUT OF IT?

STOCKHOLM MUNICIPALITY:
- improved most problematic districts of Stockholm
- reduced issue of segregation between city districts
- changed character and image of suburban areas, general quality increase
- provided accommodation for HIGH-TECH employees - potential residents
- attracted new investors to the area
- efficient use of environment
- renovated housing
- enhanced livability
- increased safety
- local integration
- inclusive design process - everybody counts
- increased accessibility

RESIDENT OF HUSBY:
- opportunity to choose type of environment
- equal opportunity to decide
- possibility for customization of personal space
- sense of belonging
- opportunity to create, build and manage
- improved quality of environment: lively, diverse and safe
WHERE IT COULD BE APPLIED
THANK YOU!